

In addition, ending the embargo will increase Cuban exposure to the United States. It will bring Cubans into contact with our tourists, business people, students, and scholars. It will bring Americans into contact with those who will be part of the post-Castro Cuba. It will spur more investment in Cuba's tourist infrastructure, helping, even if only a little, to further develop a private sector in the economy.

In May of this year, I introduced bipartisan legislation that would repeal all of the Cuba-specific statutes that create the embargo. That includes the 1992 Cuban Democracy Act and the 1996 Helms-Burton Act. I look forward to the day when that legislation will pass and we have a normal economic relationship with Cuba.

Until that day, I support measures such as this amendment which dismantle the embargo brick by brick. The sanctions on sales of food and medicine to Cuba are especially offensive.

Last year, legislation to end unilateral sanctions on food and medicine passed the Senate by a vote of 70 to 28. That legislation was hijacked by the House in conference. This year we passed similar legislation again as part of the Agriculture appropriations bill. I hope our conferees stand firm and ensure its passage this year, with one correction.

This year the sanctions provisions of the Agriculture appropriations bill contain a new requirement. The bill requires farmers who want to sell food to foreign governments of concern to get a specific license. That is needless red tape which will make it harder to export. Last year the bill we passed had no such licensing requirement. We should strike that provision in the Agriculture appropriations conference this year.

When we begin debate on the bill, one of my colleagues will offer an amendment to address unilateral sanctions on food and medicine from a different angle. The amendment will cut off funding to enforce and administer them. The House passed a similar measure by a substantial majority. We should do the same in the Senate.

Mr. President, I hope that all of my colleagues will vote in favor of this amendment and will support the ultimate lifting of the entire Cuba trade embargo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Will the Senator yield for a unanimous-consent request? Mr. MCCAIN. Yes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent when Senator MCCAIN and Senator GORTON are finished, I might be recognized thereafter. Senator WYDEN is here and he has no objection. He is joining me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is the consent request that after Senator MCCAIN and Senator GORTON speak—

Mr. DOMENICI. I be recognized to introduce a bill, and then that Senator WYDEN follow me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. And Senator VOINOVICH after that?

Mr. DOMENICI. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. MCCAIN and Mr. GORTON pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 344 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI and Mr. WYDEN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2937 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the 11:30 cloture vote the Senate proceed to consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4576, the Defense appropriations bill. Further, I ask consent that there be up to 60 minutes for debate under the control of Senator MCCAIN and up to 15 minutes under the control of Senator GRAMM, with an additional 6 minutes equally divided between Senators STEVENS and INOUE, and 20 minutes for Senator BYRD, and following that debate the conference report be laid aside.

I further ask consent that the vote on the conference report occur at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, without any intervening action or debate, notwithstanding rule XXII, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the conference report be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of Oregon). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator DEWINE be recognized to speak in morning business immediately following the remarks of Senator HARKIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BALKANS MATTER

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, the Balkans, with Gavril Princip's assassination of Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand in Sarajevo, Bosnia in 1914, started the devastation of World War I. World War II had deep ties to the region as well. The Truman doctrine, the basis of American policy throughout the cold war, began with President Truman's decision to support anti-Communist forces in Greece and Turkey, again, in the Balkans. To deal with the historic threat to peace, security and prosperity the Balkans poses, the United States and Europe made a

commitment in the aftermath of the Kosovo crisis to integrate the region into the broader European community. This commitment is consistent with the pillar that has bound the United States and Europe since the end of World War II—a belief in the peaceful influence of stable democracies based on the rule of law, respect for human rights and support for a market economy in Europe.

However, the Balkans continue to be unstable. Slobodan Milosevic constantly stirs trouble in Kosovo and Montenegro. The minority communities of Kosovo are suffering under a systematic effort by extremist ethnic Albanians to force them out. Moderate Albanians in Kosovo are threatened for simply selling bread to a member of the Serb community. As long as this instability remains, the shared European and American goal of a whole and free Europe will not become a reality.

Inclusion of the Balkans in the European community of democracies would promote our Nation's strategic interests. By providing a series of friendly nations south from Hungary to Greece and east from Italy to the Black Sea, we would be in a much better position to deter regional crises and respond to them should they occur. The link to the Black Sea would also provide a link into central Asia in the event that the protection of our national security interests were ever threatened in this area.

The U.S. and the EU account for more than 30 percent of world trade. The EU receives nearly 25 percent of our total exports and is our largest export market for agricultural products. The nations of the Balkans, due to their proximity to the EU's common market, have tremendous potential for American investors and businesses to expand these trading ties. Additionally, many in the Balkans have excellent educational backgrounds and work experience that would be invaluable to an American investor. Many nations currently being considered for EU membership began their transition from command economies in a much worse position than the nations of southeastern Europe. If these nations can make enough progress to be considered for EU membership in the short-term, surely Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, and Bulgaria can as well.

While we have done much as a country to respond to human suffering around the world in recent years, these efforts are made after the fact. This is a mistake that reflects the Clinton administration's lack of foresight. In Kosovo, for example, our lack of preparation for the refugees created by Milosevic's aggression was inexcusable. To prevent this type of tragedy in the Balkans again—the refugees, the homelessness, the starvation—we must remain involved in the region.

I believe that the following steps should be taken to advance our goal of an integrated, whole, and free Europe:

NATO and EU membership—The nations of southeastern Europe must be